



**FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE**

Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-89-199
Tuesday
17 October 1989

Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-*AFR*-89-199

CONTENTS

17 October 1989

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha: All Parties Accept Mobutu as Mediator [SAPA]	1
Reportage on Joint Commission Meeting on Namibia	1
USSR Delegation Arrives [Johannesburg Radio]	1
Van Heerden Previews Meeting [Johannesburg International]	1
Meeting Under Way [SAPA]	1
Neil van Heerden Views Talks [SAPA]	2
Prisoner of War Release Viewed [Johannesburg Radio]	2
Joint Talks Delay [Johannesburg Radio]	3
UN Officials To Meet De Klerk [SAPA]	3
Commission Members Meet De Klerk [SAPA]	3
Viljoen Terms ANC Possible Negotiating Partner [Umtata Radio]	3
Maputo Radio Interviews Sisulu Following Release	4
Moscow Caller Telephones Sisulu [SAPA]	4
Albertina Sisulu Comments on Mandela Imprisonment [SAPA]	4
Winnie Mandela Comments on Prisoners' Release [SAPA]	5
Released Political Prisoners Receive Visitors [SAPA]	5
Former Prisoner Mpetha Arrives in Cape Town [SAPA]	6
Ex-Prisoner Masemola: Armed Struggle Possibility [BBC]	6
Commentary Assails Talk of 'Political Takeover' [Johannesburg Radio]	7
DP's Schwarz Views Sisulu Statements [Johannesburg International]	7
CP's Treurnicht Criticizes Prisoners' Release [SAPA]	8
ANC Radio Hails Release of Leaders [Addis Ababa Radio]	8
'Remarkable Power' of Imprisoned Mandela Assessed [SUNDAY STAR 15 Oct]	9
Zeph Mothopeng Hospitalized for Tests [SAPA]	9
Unbanning Set for Three Ex-Security Prisoners [SAPA]	9
Six Prisoners Taken Off Death Row [Umtata Radio]	10
ANC on De Klerk Meeting, Commonwealth Summit [Dar es Salaam Radio]	10
No Violence Reported in Johannesburg March [SAPA]	11
Further on Protest March [SAPA]	11
De Beers Strike Ends 16 Oct; Talks To Resume [SAPA]	12
Commentary: State Firms' Privatization 'Launched' [Johannesburg Radio]	12
14 Oct Press Review on Current Problems, Issues	13

Pik Botha: All Parties Accept Mobutu as Mediator

*MB1610144889 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1439 GMT 16 Oct 89*

[Text] Paris Oct 16 SAPA—All parties to negotiations to end the Angolan conflict had agreed on the mediating role of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in a statement in Paris on Monday.

He released the statement after meeting UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] President Dr Jonas Savimbi on Sunday [15 October] night, and President Mobutu on Monday.

Mr Botha said it was of great encouragement to South Africa that all the parties had agreed on President Mobutu's role.

"We trust that all parties will exercise restraint," he added.

Mr Botha said he had also conveyed greetings from the South African state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, to President Mobutu.

Mr Botha flew to France—where President Mobutu is trying to work out a ceasefire formula for the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] and UNITA—at the weekend.

Reportage on Joint Commission Meeting on Namibia

USSR Delegation Arrives

*MB1310130789 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Text] The Soviet Union's special representative in the independence process in South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Aleksey Ustinov, has arrived in Johannesburg.

On Monday [16 October] he will attend a meeting of the Joint Commission of South Africa, Angola, and Cuba. Mr Ustinov is accompanied by four other Soviet delegates, who are acting as observers together with an American delegation. The Cuban, Angolan and American delegates will arrive in South Africa during the weekend.

Mr Ustinov said on his arrival that the meeting had been arranged to remove the obstacle before the elections in South-West Africa/Namibia, which takes place in 3 weeks time. He said problems to be addressed were the intimidation of voters, the disbandment of Koevoet [police counterinsurgency unit], the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola and the Electoral Act.

The last meeting of the Joint Commission was held 3 weeks ago in Havana, Cuba, as a result of the crisis situation in the south of Angola.

Van Heerden Previews Meeting

*MB1510155189 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1500 GMT 15 Oct 89*

[Text] The South African director general of foreign affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, says that although the settlement in Namibia is not in danger, there are certain red lights that are flashing concerning the peaceful conclusion of the process.

Mr van Heerden has told our political news staff that one of the flashing red lights is the suspicion that armed SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] elements have moved into southern Angolan positions just north of the border with Namibia. This is contrary to the agreement that such elements must remain in bases north of the 16th parallel under UN supervision. Mr van Heerden said it was suspected that the SWAPO elements would try to create a military situation if the coming election did not proceed smoothly for SWAPO.

Mr van Heerden said the second red light South Africa was concerned about was the UN Transition Assistance Group [UNTAG] report on about 400 SWAPO detainees who could not be found after an investigation in Angola and Zambia. As far as South Africa was concerned, the UNTAG report was definitely the end of the story. Mr van Heerden said South Africa was concerned particularly because this matter had not been tackled by UNTAG with the same degree of thoroughness as its insistence on the disbanding of the Koevoet counterinsurgency unit.

Mr van Heerden was speaking before the 2-day meeting of the joint commission of South Africa, Angola, and Cuba which starts in Johannesburg tomorrow, Monday.

He said the main agenda points were the position reached in the settlement process in Namibia, and the progress made with the Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola. The Cuban withdrawal was coupled to the Namibian independence process, and questions would be put to the meeting about the Cuban withdrawal which, Mr van Heerden said, appeared to be progressing according to plan.

He said the civil war in Angola and the mediation efforts of President Mobutu of Zaire were not on the agenda of the joint commission meeting. He made it clear that the Angolan civil war and the settlement process were an Angolan domestic matter.

Meeting Under Way

*MB1610092789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0905 GMT 16 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 16 SAPA—An extraordinary meeting of the joint commission on the Namibian independence process opened in a hotel in Johannesburg on Monday morning. SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reports.

The talks, under the chairmanship of the director general of foreign affairs, Neil van Heerden, are being held to discuss potential difficulties in the light of the impending elections in the territory.

The implementation of Resolution 435 and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola are on the agenda.

Several other matters to be discussed include the controversy surrounding members of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] missing in Angola, SWAPO's military presence in southern Angola and alleged UNTAG [UN Transition Assistance Group] bias towards SWAPO.

UNTAG charges against the disbanded counter-insurgency unit, Koevoet, of political involvement will also be discussed.

The talks could be tough, because of mounting pressure brought on by the coming elections, the radio said.

The talks are expected to last two days.

Neil van Heerden Views Talks

MB1610165389 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1642 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 16, SAPA—A new mechanism for dealing with problems on the border between Namibia and Angola which could hinder the implementation of Resolution 435 were agreed to at an extraordinary meeting of the joint commission on Namibian independence plan on Monday.

In terms of an agreement reached at Monday's meeting, representatives of Cuba, Angola, South Africa, UNTAG [UN Transition Assistance Group] and the two observer delegations (United States and Soviet Union) would be able to monitor any problems in the border region and deal with them immediately instead of having to go through the procedure of reporting them to the joint commission.

The chairman of the joint commission and leader of the South African delegation, Director General of Foreign Affairs Mr Neil van Heerden said after Monday's sitting of the two day meeting, the agreement reached between the parties that problems could be dealt with "on the spot" had been a significant feature of the talks.

He said the commission had made good progress today on Monday and he had been satisfied with the tone and contents of the discussions.

Mr van Heerden, who had predicted before Monday's meeting that there were still problem areas which had to be addressed to keep the peace plan for the area on course, said agreement had been reached which would enable the remaining problems around the border area to be solved.

Mr van Heerden said the presence of remnants of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization]

operatives in southern Angola was still an issue which had to be dealt with in the talks on Tuesday [17 October]. He anticipated the meeting would end at lunchtime on Tuesday.

The leader of the Cuban delegation, Mr Carlos Aldana, also said good progress had been made but that there were still some problem areas.

Although the prospects for Resolution 435 being implemented according to schedule and Namibia proceeding to independence [as received], he emphasised that the process was reversible and there was still some difficulties which would have to be sorted out.

It was a complex and difficult process in which much wisdom was needed but through co-operation and discussion the prospects of success were good.

He said the Cuban delegation had pointed out there were bushman combat units still operating in Caprivi and [which] had traditionally supported UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

He said the Angolan Government was concerned about their presence and agreement on the matter still had to be reached.

Monday's meeting was attended by delegations from Cuba, Angola, South Africa, the United Nations and the U.S. and Soviet Union who both attended as observers.

Many high-ranking officials including the commander of the UNTAG forces, General Frem Chan, the chief of the [South African] Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, the administrator-general of Namibia, Mr Louis Pienaar and the UN special representative, Mr Martti Ahtisaari attended the meeting.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha who is due to return from France on Tuesday, could make an appearance at the next round of talks.

Prisoner of War Release Viewed

MR1710063989 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The joint commission of South Africa, Angola, and Cuba currently meeting in Johannesburg to discuss problems that may arise during the coming general election in South-West Africa/Namibia winds up its session today.

Our political news staff reports that one of the most important issues to be discussed today is the release of a South-West African Territory Force soldier being held in Angola, Rifleman Petrus. He is the only prisoner of war still being held by any of the parties. This matter will be discussed during bilateral talks between South Africa and Angola.

The chairman of the commission, Mr Neil van Heerden, said earlier that he was satisfied at progress made at the meeting so far and that several difficult issues had been dealt with.

The commission agreed to form a task force to investigate and act against incursions into South-West Africa/Namibia and the presence of armed SWAPO [South-West Africa Peoples' Organization] members south of the 16th parallel in southern Angola.

After the meeting the delegation leaders will leave for Pretoria to visit the state president, Mr F.W. De Klerk.

Joint Talks Delay

*MB1710094389 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0900 GMT 17 Oct 89*

[Text] The start of this morning's session of the joint commission of South Africa, Angola, and Cuba was delayed after news of a UN Security Council meeting to censure South Africa's role in South-West Africa/Namibia.

Diplomats at the joint commission told our political staff that the African group at the United Nations was circulating an extremely strongly-worded draft resolution and that they hoped to enforce an emergency session of the Security Council.

It is believed that one of the issues is the demobilization of the counterinsurgency unit, Koevoet. It has been alleged that members of Koevoet have joined political parties in the territory or have been assimilated into the South-West African Police force.

After yesterday's meeting of the joint commission the chairman, Mr Neil van Heerden, said Koevoet had been discussed and that good progress had been made although he did refer to specifics.

UN Officials To Meet De Klerk

*MB1710122789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1201 GMT 17 Oct 89*

[Text] Windhoek, Oct 17, SAPA—The United Nations special representative in Namibia, Mr Martti Ahtisaari, and the force commander of UNTAG [UN Transition Assistance Group], Lt-Gen Dewan Prem Chand, were due to meet President F.W. de Klerk in Pretoria on Tuesday afternoon, according to a UN spokesman in Windhoek.

Mr Ahtisaari and Gen Prem Chand were in South Africa to attend the extraordinary session of the joint commission which ends today (Tuesday).

The spokesman, Mr Fred Eckhard, said UN police monitors reported a situation of "pervasive calm" with no complaints of intimidation in Namibia up till midnight on Monday [16 October].

He told a media briefing in Windhoek 100 Canadian and 50 Nigerian policemen were due to arrive in the country on Thursday [19 October], while 50 from India and 54 from Ghana were due in on Saturday. UN police monitors would man 49 station throughout Namibia during the election period.

The monitoring of the demobilisation of the former police counter-insurgency unit, Koevoet, by UN personnel was "taking somewhat longer than expected" and by Monday 1094 members had completed the demobilisation procedure, Mr Eckhard said.

A second demobilisation of the unit was called for by the UN as a number of men were absent without leave at the first function, making it impossible for Mr Ahtisaari to certify the operation.

Commission Members Meet De Klerk

*MB1710130489 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1239 GMT 17 Oct 89*

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 17, SAPA—Members of the joint commission between Cuba, Angola and South Africa met the state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, at his offices at the Union Buildings on Tuesday.

The commission, whose hearings have also been attended by observers from the United States and the Soviet Union, met in Johannesburg on Monday [16 October] and Tuesday to review the southwestern African peace process on the eve of the next month's Namibian independence elections.

Appearing for a brief photo session on the Union Buildings' steps, a smiling President de Klerk told delegates—including UN special envoy Mr Martti Ahtisaari and Namibian Administrator-General Mr Louis Pienaar—the last time he was photographed outside the Union Buildings was when he delivered his inaugural speech on September 20.

Viljoen Terms ANC Possible Negotiating Partner

*MB1710073489 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0700 GMT 17 Oct 89*

[Text] A senior government minister says he is willing to discuss preconditions for negotiation with Walter Sisulu and other ANC [African National Congress] leaders.

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Gerrit Viljoen says he is encouraged by the attitude taken by Sisulu and the seven other political prisoners released on Sunday [15 October].

Although he did not repeat the government's demands that the ANC should renounce violence, he says the eight shouldn't back up negotiating positions with threats of violence.

Viljoen says the government is prepared to hold discussions with anti-apartheid leaders about what would influence their participation in negotiations, but he says if

they are to work the fewer the preconditions the better. Although he didn't directly say whether the ANC would be unbanned, he said the organization is considered one of the possible negotiating partners.

Maputo Radio Interviews Sisulu Following Release

*MB1510112189 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 15 Oct 89*

[Excerpts] Good afternoon, friends! Today, 15 October is a day of celebration in South Africa where eight political prisoners have been freed after spending many years in the apartheid dungeons. [passage omitted]

A few moments ago, we made a call to Johannesburg to speak with Walter Sisulu and welcome him to freedom on behalf of the Mozambican people:

[Begin recording in English] [Sisulu] Hello!

[Unidentified correspondent] Hello!

[Sisulu] Hello!

[Correspondent] Hello!

[Sisulu] Oh, how are you?

[Correspondent] Is that Mr Sisulu?

[Sisulu] Yes, yes.

[Correspondent] Mr Sisulu, in the name of the Mozambican people, I welcome you to freedom!

[Sisulu] I thank you very much; I thank you very much. I am keeping fit. I have arrived this morning and I am feeling well and the spirit is well, the sight is very good indeed, and I will not be able to discuss anything of a political nature at this stage. I think we shall be able to communicate with you at a later stage.

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Sisulu] I am out with all my colleagues and we were released this morning at 5 o'clock. [end recording]

That was Walter Sisulu who, although he would not discuss political issues, expressed his joy at being free and able to see the beauty of the city that he has not seen over the past 26 years. He also told us that he was in good spirits, that he was released at 0500 this morning, and that all his other colleagues had also been already freed.

We also asked Walter Sisulu if he had any message for the Mozambican people:

[Begin recording in English] [Sisulu] I would like to have a message to the Mozambican people but that being a political issue, I must wait, you see, until the question of the press conference has been held. We will communicate with you. The committee has you in mind.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Sisulu] You don't mind that! [end recording]

Moscow Caller Telephones Sisulu

*MB1510061989 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0616 GMT 15 Oct 89*

[By Joan Fubbs]

[Text] Soweto Oct 15 SAPA—Moscow called the Sisulu home 7.30 Friday [13 October] [as received] morning and spoke to Walter Sisulu.

"Is that Walter?" the Soviet caller asked.

"Yes," replied Mr Sisulu.

The ANC leader came home this morning after 25 years in prison.

Inside the Sisulu home in Orlando West, Soweto, he hugged SAPA correspondent Joan Fubbs, kissing her on both cheeks and thanking her for the press cuttings she had kept for him.

"I am so glad. It's been many years. It feels wonderful...wonderful to be here with my family...to be free," he said.

Political activists Murphy Morobe, Cyril Ramaphosa, Samson Ndo and members of the Federation of Transvaal Women were among a crowd swelled to 300 there to greet their leader.

Albertina Sisulu Comments on Mandela Imprisonment

*MB1310115389 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1148 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[By Joan Fubbs]

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 13, SAPA—Mrs Albertina Sisulu, using her freedom to speak to the press after restrictions preventing her from doing were lifted on Friday told reporters Nelson Mandela had advised her about the South African black liberation struggle.

"Now that there are less limitations on my activities, I will be able to push ahead with the suggestions and advice given to me by Mandela," she said.

Mrs Sisulu said Mandela had spoken to her while she and others had visited the jailed ANC [African National Congress] leader on Tuesday night this week. During the visit she learned of the government's intention to release her husband, Walter Sisulu, and seven other political prisoners from a SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] TV news broadcast.

Asked to elaborate on Mandela's advice, Mrs Sisulu said the time was not opportune.

He had said his own release was not due to a "hold-up" on his side. "I wanted to be one of you going out," he said.

Mandela had confirmed government statements that he was consulted with regard to the release of the eight political prisoners, she said.

The government indicated Mandela had made clear his own release was not an issue at the time.

But he told Mrs Sisulu: "I hope my release too will be soon."

Mrs Sisulu said she believed the government was afraid to release jailed black political leaders, particularly Mandela, "because it knows that the people outside will be guided by them only. That is why he said the government is not ready to release him."

The release of Mandela and all other political prisoners, as well as the lifting of restrictions and the scrapping of apartheid would create "the right climate for negotiations" between blacks and State President Mr F.W. de Klerk's government.

"Only then can the government talk about negotiating."

she said she agreed with those who said the release of her husband and the others was a government ploy to maintain the status quo in South Africa and take the pressure off British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher at the Commonwealth heads of state meeting in Malaysia next week where pressure for intensified economic sanctions are expected.

"Certainly there is no doubt that the government was pressured nationally, internationally but particularly by the Commonwealth into making this move.

"The government is using the releases as a cover to protect it from international fire. It is in a big economic bind, it has to give itself time to breathe," Mrs Sisulu said.

Winnie Mandela Comments on Prisoners' Release

*MB1310190389 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1900 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Text] Soweto, Johannesburg, Oct 13 SAPA—Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned ANC [African National Congress] leader Nelson Mandela, on Friday evening poured cold water of expectations of her husband's early release.

She told reporters as she went into the home of Albertina Sisulu here she did not believe Mr Mandela would be released soon.

She added he would not be released without the government giving into some of the "major demands made by our people.

"He fought for these demands and without this package he will not be released," she said.

She added her husband would not be released into a state of emergency. "When he is released, the people expect

the government to negotiate the transfer of power from the minority to the majority."

Mrs Sisulu's husband, Walter, former secretary general of the African National Congress, is expected to be released at the weekend.

His pending freedom along with seven other security prisoners was announced on Tuesday by State President F.W. de Klerk.

Earlier Friday evening, police took action against people gathered outside the Sisulu home. Later, it was calmer, but police were still on the scene. Members of the Transvaal Federation of Women (FEDTRAW) were singing and dancing outside the Sisulu house in expectation of Mr Sisulu's release, and police were looking on.

Journalists remained on the scene.

Asked if Nelson Mandela wanted to be released, she asked what prisoner would not want to be release. "What father would not want to be with his family and children?"

Mr Mandela was a man who had always put his ideals first and he was still firm in his convictions, she added.

"There is no difference in him, none at all. The leadership of our people is as united as when they stood together on June 12, 1964 when they were convicted," she said in reference to the famous Rivonia trial.

There had been no change in the leadership's policy, and they still adhered to their earlier Rivonia ideals.

She did not believe Mr Mandela would be released soon.

She also described the pending freedom of the eight as "a trap" and "deceitful," but would not elaborate despite questioning by reporters.

Discussing the releases, she asked why freedom had not been granted to "all the leaders," adding: "Nelson has been left behind."

She also reiterated the commonly held view in anti-apartheid circles that government had no choice but to release certain prominent security prisoners because of internal and external pressure—and to give British Premier Margaret Thatcher ammunition for her anti-sanctions stance during the Commonwealth summit later this month.

Released Political Prisoners Receive Visitors

*MB1510162189 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1614 GMT 15 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 15 SAPA—The seven prominent ANC [African National Congress] leaders and one PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] man released on Sunday morning were locked in consultations with members of

their respective organisations as their unconditional freedom was savoured by thousands of supporters around the country.

Leaders of the national reception committee, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, and Mr Murphy Morobe, on Sunday paid a flying visit to other newly released ANC men in Soweto—Wilton Mkwai, 61, Andrew Mlangeni, 63, and Elias Motsoaledi, 65—in preparation for Mr Walter Sisulu's discussions with them later in the day.

The "comrades" are maintain strict control at all the former inmates' homes. At one stage, about 60 well-wishers and activists queued in two rows waiting to greet Mr Sisulu in his home.

Yusuf Cachalia and his wife, Amina, were among the scores of activists who visited Sisulu this morning and later went on to visit the other ANC stalwarts.

During the course of the day, several former fellow-prisoners also visited Sisulu. Among them were: Strini Moodley of the Black Consciousness Movement; Lombard Mbata, ANC, who spent 20 years on Robben Island and who is now with the SACC [South African Council of Churches], Thami Mkhwanazi, Philip Mathews, and Seleki Ramokgadi.

Speaking briefly to journalists, Mr Sisulu said he was happy to be received by his people in such a manner. He was physically well, he said, and believed pressure from the people in the country contributed strongly to his release.

Mr Mkwai, still having the air of a military commander, showed his mettle when he complained about an expected appointment being postponed till a later time.

"We must have discipline in our struggle. It is just not good to say something will happen at some time and then we have to change the time."

Former Prisoner Mpetha Arrives in Cape Town

*MB1610143189 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1325 GMT 16 Oct 89*

[Text] Cape Town Oct 16 SAPA—A crowd of about 80 people gathered at D.F. Malan Airport on Monday to welcome freed ANC [African National Congress] member Oscar Mpetha on his return from Johannesburg.

The crowd sang and cheered when his wheelchair was pushed into the arrival lounge.

Mr Mpetha was released on Sunday and went to Johannesburg where he attended a press conference with six other ANC members.

Ex-Prisoner Masemola: Armed Struggle Possibility

*MB1610195889 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 16 Oct 89*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A leading member of South Africa's Pan-Africanist Congress is now in his 2d day of freedom after serving 27 years of a life sentence. Japhta Masemola, who is now 60, is the only one of the eight security prisoners freed yesterday morning who is a member of the PAC. He is now back at home in Atteridgeville near Pretoria. Elizabeth Ohene asked Mr Masemola what part he now intends to play in the antiapartheid struggle:

[Begin recording] [Masemola] My role now that I am free man is to work hard, to harness every ounce of my energy toward the equitable distribution of the wealth of the country, and since this cannot be arrived at or achieved through the process of negotiations, my endeavors will be directed toward the repossession of this land.

[Ohene] And how do you intend to do that?

[Masemola] The process of achieving that will have to be discussed. We have a clear view, however, that in the revolutionary struggle all the strategies will have to be looked into and the best possible will be selected and then put into operation toward the achievement of that.

[Ohene] Are we talking of armed struggle here?

[Masemola] I must say that that is not totally excluded. Let me put it that way safely.

[Ohene] And there is a possibility that you might find yourself back behind bars?

[Masemola] Well, I have dedicated my entire life toward the liberation of this country, and in such a struggle, there will always be casualties, including death, and reincarceration is an expected eventuality.

[Ohene] Apart from the fact that much of your youth was taken away behind bars, is there anything in particular that you resent about the 27 years of incarceration?

[Masemola] Yes, I am full of resentment and bitterness because when one realizes that a period of 27 years is that long, and during this period relatively nothing has been achieved and we have continued incarceration of our youth. There is this feeling of a frustration which is immediately followed by anger. But (?write it also) almost immediately by the determination to see that this problem must be removed out of the way as quickly as possible in order to save everybody the pain that must of necessity accompany such an undertaking. [end recording]

Commentary Assails Talk of 'Political Takeover'

MB1710054589 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The release of eight security prisoners is part of a series of initiatives in an action plan for negotiations that has had both a positive and negative response.

Expectations have been raised in some quarters. In other circles there has been scepticism and even a backlash reaction. The heady atmosphere engendered by the flag-waving and sloganeering of street marches tends to create unrealistic expectations of an imminent political takeover by certain groups. And this very thought has prompted threats of reprisals.

Such irrational threats—like the equally irrational talk of a political takeover—are in total conflict with the realities of the South African situation and with what is possible in a complex society that is generating profound changes. Because of the complexity and changing nature of this society, the political future of South Africa cannot belong to a particular party or group. The political future must embrace a broad spectrum of parties, and the process now in motion must be one in which there is accommodation of all authentic leaders and parties in the negotiations that must fashion the political future.

The touchstone for the negotiation process and for the new dispensation flowing from that process must not be political takeover but political participation. Leaders of the exiled African National Congress, and some of the security prisoners released this week, have spoken of a continuing commitment to violence. This concept—of violence being the only answer because all peaceful avenues are closed—is outdated. It belongs to a past political era. Today the doors are open to all political leaders who are willing to take part in peaceful and democratic action. At the same time, the African National Congress, like other parties, must accept that negotiations on the future can neither be a one-way stream nor confined to one or two parties.

Participation in the negotiation process must be comprehensive, involving the authentic leaders of constituencies across the political spectrum, from left to right, as well as distinctive geographical and cultural constituencies. The momentum for profound change in South African society has been generated by the interaction between diverse groups seeking to build, from their diversity, a better and more united nation. It is those same forces of interaction that must construct a new political and constitutional dispensation for South Africa.

DP's Schwarz Views Sisulu Statements

MB1610133189 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1100 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] At a news conference held in Soweto by the seven ANC [African National Congress] members after their release from up to 26 years of imprisonment, the freed men expressed their solidarity with the organization. They also issued a challenge to the government to implement a package of reforms before the ANC could declare a truce with the South African Government. We asked Mr Harry Schwarz, a leading member of the opposition Democratic Party of South Africa, to react to the pronouncements by the released ANC members:

[Begin recording] [Schwarz] Well, I think that nobody could have expected them to say anything other than what they did say because quite obviously they have returned to their colleagues. The attitude of the ANC is well-known and I am in no way surprised by anything which they have said. I think the real question, of course, is whether the ANC is going to be prepared to lay down their arms and abandon violence, and be prepared to negotiate without any undue preconditions, and I think that is the real issue and at the moment the preconditions have again been stated and to my mind what needs to happen is the people need to have talks about talks without preconditions.

[Unidentified correspondent] That comes from both sides, then?

[Schwarz] Both sides. I think that there should be no preconditions because if you are going to have a truce or you are going to have any form of cessation of violence, somebody has to talk about the cessation of violence, and I think these preliminary talks about talks, they have to take place in order to bring about a cessation of violence. But, I have always taken the view that you can't actually negotiate and be conducting violent activities at the same time. I think those [word indistinct] to my mind is very clear. That is why you need to bring about a truce.

[Correspondent] Now, Walter Sisulu is said to have described the release because it did not include Nelson Mandela as half a measure which is doing the country great harm. How do you see that?

[Schwarz] I don't think so at all. I think that the question of the release of Mr Nelson Mandela is only a question of time. I think he will be released and I think that events will show that what has taken place here has probably taken place with his approval. I obviously don't know that, but I am assuming that. My sort of assessment of the situation has been that Nelson Mandela, being the leader, he wanted to see his followers out first, which is what I think normally leaders would want to do. So, I can understand that the people who are out are saying that they want Nelson Mandela out. I also believe that Nelson Mandela will be out within a short while. [end recording]

CP's Treurnicht Criticizes Prisoners' Release*MB1610123389 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1216 GMT 16 Oct 89*

[Text] Pretoria Oct 16 SAPA—Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht on Monday said the unconditional release of eight security prisoners, and the challenge they had subsequently issued, were "completely irreconcilable" with the banning of the ANC [African National Congress].

He said in comment made available to SAPA the African National Congress had been banned by government for "substantiated reasons"—violence and communist control.

South Africa faced a clear choice, he said—either the government "dispossesses us of our country and own political control by giving in to the ANC ultimatum; or the government disallows further demonstrations and rejects all radical claims which will disturb the peace, destroy freedom and land the country in a situation of chaos and conflict".

ANC Radio Hails Release of Leaders*EA1510063889 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English
to South Africa 1900 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Commentary: Let Us Turn (?Out) in our Hundreds Tomorrow To Welcome Home Our Leaders, and To Continue Our (?Attacks)]

[Text] Compatriots: The release of seven of our leaders after more than 25 years is a victory belonging to us all. It is a victory that comes after more than 25 years of struggle, after more than 25 years of dedication, of unrelenting efforts and organization. Finally the doors of the apartheid prisons are opening. We have opened them by our mass actions. We have forced the regime to retreat. We all know that various (?old persons) of the regime had vowed any other such releases will never happen. Yet, here we are, awaiting with bigger expectations the release of those who were jailed for leading us to the non-racial and democratic South Africa whose victory can no longer be doubted.

The marches organized by the giant trade union federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions in 17 centers throughout our country to welcome its leaders back and to fight against the Labor Relations Amendment Act is a timely occasion for people's power. These marches, which tomorrow will be taking place throughout our country, is indeed the unmistakable expression of the confidence in our victory and an expression of mass united action for people's power.

Everywhere where you are, compatriots, we must march to celebrate this important victory we have just scored. We must also march to let no one doubt where our loyalty lies. We must march to show the world who are the real leaders of the people. But, as those tomorrow's marches cannot be confined to the workers alone, we

must join them in our hundreds of thousands, even in our millions. Let us all be part of this victorious mainstream which is marching confidently towards victory.

Let us give our leaders the most massive welcome ever seen in our country. Tomorrow's marches must herald a new era. They must be a giant step towards the opening of all apartheid jails. We are not only marching to welcome home our leaders, we are at the same time demanding that those who are still in the racist jails, all the political prisoners, including Comrade Nelson Mandela, are to be set free unconditionally and immediately.

Our enemy has shown that he can no longer remain defiant in the face of our strength, those inside and outside of our country. If it has taken this first step in retreat, let us push it to retreat even more, to turn that retreat into a defeat, and that defeat into the routing of the enemy forces. Even if it is said that the apartheid regime released these leaders only to give Margaret Thatcher a card to play against the increasing demands for sanctions and further isolation, they can't be now denying that the enemy is [words indistinct] reacting to our pressure. If it has reacted, it must react more. We have the power, we have the capacity to [words indistinct].

Let us come out in our hundreds of thousands to demand the freedom of all political prisoners now rather than tomorrow. Let these demands be heard in the streets of our country, in the cities, in the towns and even in the most remote villages of rural areas. Every gathering we hold, whether it be a sports gathering, a church gathering or whatever gatherings during this weekend, the talk should be about the victory we have just scored, it should be about the command that this victory must be made complete.

Furthermore, compatriots, let us come out into the streets tomorrow to challenge the racist Labor Relations Amendment Act. No one of us can say he or she can't be affected. We are all concerned, whether we are students, the unemployed, the women, the (?peasants), farmers or traditional chiefs, this is our fight. As [word indistinct] says an injury to one is an injury to all. So must be tomorrow.

Let us come out to press home the attack on the racist Labor Relations Amendment Act. Let us rise to the occasion and fill the streets of our country, to press home our attacks against (?old people's) apartheid and the very [word indistinct] system. Tomorrow's marches should herald the new era. Tomorrow's marches should be a giant step towards our goal of a united non-racial South Africa. Our enemy is on the retreat, we have all the reasons to (?pursue him).

Victory lies in the attack, victory lies in united mass action. Let us give a hero's welcome to our leaders. Let us (?pursue) the demands of the release of all political prisoners. Let us smash the racist Labor Relations Amendment Act. Forward to the week of sustained (?marches) [words indistinct]. Forward to people's

power. Without action, we shall remain forever oppressed, without unity we shall remain ever crushed. [revolutionary song]

'Remarkable Power' of Imprisoned Mandela Assessed

MB1510103389 Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR
in English 15 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Nelson Mandela, the world's most extraordinary prisoner, was waiting in the wings last night on the eve of the dramatic release of eight of his closest colleagues. The remarkable power of the man who stayed behind became clear this week when the State President, Mr F.W. de Klerk, admitted that Mandela had been apprised of the release of the eight—and had also been consulted about his own freedom.

"Discussions were held with him and he confirmed yet again that his release is not now on the agenda," Mr de Klerk said. This amazing situation—where a prisoner tells his captors he is not ready for them to release him—follows a series of events that emphasises Mandela is the most unusual captive in the world.

And this is doubly so in the context of a succession of Nationalist governments having considered Mandela Public Enemy No 1 since his arrest 27 years ago.

Mandela's special treatment began more than a year ago when senior government officials began holding talks with the African National Congress [ANC] leader. Since then:

The man who plotted the violent downfall of the Government has been invited to Tuynhuys, the seat of government, to have tea with Mr P.W. Botha, who was then State president.

He has had conference with several Cabinet Ministers.

He has been given a house and servants of his own in the grounds of a prison.

There he holds court, with friends and family coming to see him almost at will—and the Government inviting his wife to live with him, an offer Mrs Winnie Mandela has refused.

Leading foes of the Government have also been allowed to visit him, consult with him, plan strategies with him, and then been permitted to fly to Harare and Lusaka to report to the external wing of the ANC—the men branded as terrorists by the Government. The Government has brought its avowed enemies, the men convicted of plotting revolution with Mandela, from other prisons, to consult their leader.

It has also become clear that although the Government desperately would like to free Mandela and that Mandela himself would like to be free, both want him to stay in jail at present—for their own and very different reasons.

And now, with the release of the eight and his own decision to stay in jail, comes the conclusive evidence that Mandela is largely calling the shots when it comes to deciding his own destiny.

The Mass Democratic Movement said in a statement after its leaders met Mandela this week: "At no stage has he asked for his own release. He believes that this should be left to others to do.

"His view is that he cannot enter into negotiations with the Government as a prisoner. In his contact with the Government he has urged it to talk to the leadership."

Zeph Mothopeng Hospitalized for Tests

MB1710135389 Johannesburg SABA in English
1353 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 17, SABA—PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] President Mr Zeph Mothopeng has been hospitalised in Johannesburg following a "general weakening" in his condition.

The 76-year-old former political prisoner, who was released late last year, would undergo tests at Brenthurst Clinic on Tuesday (today), an aide, Mr Benny Alexander, said.

Mr Mothopeng was taken to the Florence Nightingale Hospital on Monday [16 October] after he became short of breath following a visit to recently-released ANC [African National Congress] leader Mr Walter Sisulu.

On Sunday [15 October], Mr Mothopeng travelled to Pretoria to visit Mr Japhtha Masemola of the PAC, who had been released on Sunday morning.

Mr Mothopeng was in a stable condition on Tuesday, Mr Alexander said.

Unbanning Set for Three Ex-Security Prisoners

MB1610142989 Johannesburg SABA in English
1357 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 16, SABA—Three released ANC [African National Congress] prisoners are to be unbanned and their names are to be removed from the consolidated list.

Mr Ahmed Kathrada, Mr Elias Motsoaledi and Mr Raymond Mhlaba were listed under the Internal Security Act of 1950.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said the men could be quoted before the notice appeared in the government gazette.

The measure would be a technicality to comply with the government's earlier assurances that the former prisoners would not be restricted.

Six Prisoners Taken Off Death Row

MB1610130389 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1100 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] South African authorities have moved six prisoners off death row.

The six have had their death sentences commuted to terms of imprisonment ranging from 20 to 27 years. But Lawyers for Human Rights organization says five other prisoners, however, are schedule to go to the gallows on Friday [20 October].

ANC on De Klerk Meeting, Commonwealth Summit

EA1410221389 Dar es Salaam Radio Freedom
in English 0415 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The racist so-called executive state president, F.W. de Klerk, held a 3-hour-long meeting with Rev Frank Chikane, secretary general of the South African Council of Churches, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. De Klerk described the meeting as very open and frank and promised that his doors remained open to our leaders. Ironically, De Klerk had nothing to offer. He had no pledge to make at the frank and open meeting. While he is the one who had initiated the meeting, the apartheid architect went into the meeting empty-handed.

How cynical the supposed-to-be reformer? He could not even meet the demands placed before him by our clerics. Our clerics have demanded the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of our imprisoned leaders, the unbanning of the ANC [African National Congress] and all other proscribed organizations. In a way, our clerics have demanded from him the termination of repression and the creation of an atmosphere of free political attendance, associations and platform for broader consultations.

The so-called chief reformer remains intransigent. Apartheid has lost the strategic initiative. De Klerk has inherited an acute and irresolvable crisis from P.W. Botha. Like Botha, he is now steering the apartheid ship, a stormy ship, without any compass. It is tossing and turning and sinking. For this reason, De Klerk had thought to hoodwink our clergy by saying they were the party he could negotiate with. And at the end of the open and frank meeting, he said it was but the first step in the direction of negotiations.

[words indistinct] Just what first step it is, when he offered absolutely nothing, him alone and the rest of Pretoria's devils can tell. This is not [words indistinct] De Klerk [word indistinct] (?called at the) meeting on Wednesday. Why De Klerk has called the meeting is because the pressures being exerted on him at home and abroad are quite enormous.

In about 6 days, the Commonwealth summit is convening at Kuala Lumpur and Thatcher expects him to have done something that which will give her a stronger position to bargain on his behalf. Mrs Thatcher has been very strict, saying De Klerk must be given a chance, he means business. Yes, things should be for negotiations in South Africa, and surely, she welcomed De Klerk's meeting with our church leaders as the first step in the right direction. How bankrupt her policy is.

To please and excite Mrs Thatcher De Klerk also announced on Tuesday [10 October] that our leaders, the Rivonia trialists and Comrade Oscar Mpetha, would be released unconditionally as soon as the National Security Council has attended all formalities. What formalities are these? Yet Comrade Nelson Mandela is not among those colleagues, and his name was apparently not even mentioned at the first meeting on Wednesday [11 October].

Armed with these two so-called positive gestures, Thatcher will be (?baiting) and biting her lips at the Commonwealth summit trying to convince Commonwealth leaders not to tighten sanctions against the regime, otherwise, its good reform process will collapse. But above all, the Government of the UK has serious problems with the ANC's peace plan, which is now a peace plan of the Frontline States, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement. Mrs Thatcher is spending all efforts, together with her lieutenants, to ensure that the peace plan is not going to be adopted as a document of the Commonwealth group of nations. It is again for this reason that De Klerk must do something that would on the surface be very spectacular and almost convincing, for the sake of giving Mrs Thatcher some position to speak from. The only threat the Government of the UK has made to the racist regime so far, is that of further isolation if the reform process is not speeded up.

Thus, the same Margaret Thatcher who preaches the gospel of a peaceful resolution of the South African conflict is doing everything possible in the direction of postponing all efforts aimed at a genuine position where genuine negotiations [words indistinct]. How hollow her politics.

Our church leaders have made it clear from the onset to De Klerk that they were, and are, in no position to enter into any negotiations with the apartheid regime, and stressed they can only mediate in the [word indistinct]. They have challenged De Klerk to create a conducive climate if any meaningful peace process has to be initiated. [passage omitted]

Fellow fighters for a democratic, unitary and nonracial South Africa, we cannot afford to pause even for one brief moment in our march to freedom and say that the apartheid regime will have any [words indistinct]. The regime is dying and is struggling to regain all that it has [word indistinct] itself needs, over the past 4 decades or so of [words indistinct]. This is the time to increase pressures on it. Our major areas of focus now should be:

let us strengthen and spread our consumer boycott. It should cover all areas where we still face life difficulties. Indeed the white owners targeted must feel its pinch. Not only must they feel the pinch, but they should be forced into temporary, if not complete collapse. Then they will be forced to (?urge) for trading in a democratic state. [passage omitted]

Our defiance campaign must continue—but to be able to continue with it, and to continue it at a higher level and preach [words indistinct] the recent demands of previous marches. They were indeed successful. [passage omitted]

Let us pressurize the Embassy of the UK in apartheid South Africa to persuade its government from acting against our will, against the will of the international community. Let us pressurize the British Embassy to compel its prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher not to act in defense of apartheid at the oncoming Commonwealth summit, by putting up a no to sanctions and a no to the adoption of our (?peace plan).

Armed with these pressures on the embassy and government of the UK, your organization, ANC, Reverend Allan Boesak, will be among those attending from inside South Africa, and the Commonwealth member states will be armed with stronger positions at the summit. We have created the state of ungovernability and unworkability in apartheid South Africa. This is now the time to create the state of people's rule in our country. Let all efforts be directed at this.

No Violence Reported in Johannesburg March

*MB1410133989 Johannesburg SAPA in English,
1122 GMT 14 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 14 SAPA—Leaders of COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions], NACTU [National Council of Trade Unions] and NUMSA [National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa], are walking in front of the estimated 15,000 people.

They are on their way to the University of the Witwatersrand, where they will listen to the president of COSATU, Mr Elijah Barayi.

The leaders in front are: the general secretary of COSATU, Mr J Naidoo, the general secretary of NUMSA, Mr Moses Mayekiso, and the general secretary of NACTU, Mr P Camau, and president of NACTU, Mr James Mohlatsi.

The marchers were seen carrying a coffin in front with the slogan "Labour Relations Act, rest in peace, amen".

A spokesman for the MDM [Mass Democratic Movement] said "there is a strong possibility that they will pull a trick on us and release Walter Sisulu while the focus is on the march," a spokesman for the MDM told SAPA.

He said that was the reason why Mrs Albertina Sisulu was not attending the march.

A black and white poster inscribed with the words "Long live ANC [African National Congress]," attracted attention.

One of the marchers carrying one of the posters with the inscription "Long live the ANC", told SAPA, "the ANC was pushed by the government to act violent. We want the ANC to drop their arms and work peacefully with the South African Government".

Other posters were inscribed with : Viva Delmas Trailists viva; Open the jails; Crush the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement]; Scrap the death penalty; and Afrikaans Demokrate [democrats].

The crowd was surrounded by scores of police troop carriers shortly after reaching the university campus.

Armed riot police, standing behind a perimeter fence, surrounded the parking lot where the marchers had gathered.

COSATU President Elijah Barayi, addressing the crowd through the mobile PA system, extended an invitation to "the uninvited guests" to "march with us to freedom".

To loud cheers from the crowd, Mr Barayi told the police they would be given a 60 per cent salary increase when a black government was in power. "Go tell them (police) guns and jails will never provide a solution to this country's problems."

He said an attempt had been made to sell State President F.W. de Klerk to the black masses. "We say no, De Klerk is not a good buy, we don't want him. F.W. de Klerk is a racist to the core."

Human rights lawyer Peter Harris, negotiating with police on behalf of Cosatu, was told by a senior officer the meeting was unlawful in terms of the Internal Security Act and that the crowd had done hour to disperse. The police also demanded an immediate end to speeches.

The police demand to disperse was relayed over the public address system, and although the crowd was asked to leave the premises in groups of 100, groups soon linked during their return to St Mary's Cathedral.

Police vehicles followed the procession all the way back and riot squad members, assisted by COSATU march marshalls, ensured that marchers dispersed when they arrived at the Johannesburg railway station area.

There were no incidents of violence or reports of injuries.

Further on Protest March

*MB1410155089 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1545 GMT 14 Oct 89*

[Excerpts] Johannesburg Oct 14 SAPA—Conflict between a 15,000-strong crowd of COSATU [Congress

of South African Trade Unions] protest marchers and riot squad police was narrowly avoided in Johannesburg on Saturday.

Armed, fully equipped riot police surrounded the crowd of brightly dressed, poster carrying, singing and dancing COSATU supporters when they assembled on the University of the Witwatersrand [Wits] campus after marching peacefully about three kilometres through the city's streets from St Mary's Cathedral.

Police ordered that they disperse after COSATU President Elijah Baraye, addressing the crowd via a public address system mounted on an open truck, said State President F.W. de Klerk was "a racist to the core". [passage omitted]

Civil rights lawyer Peter Harris, negotiating with the police on COSATU's behalf, was told by a senior officer the open-air meeting was unlawful in terms of the Internal Security Act, and that the crowd had one hour to disperse. The police also demanded an immediate end to the speeches.

Mr Harris said permission had been granted to hold the march by the Johannesburg City council and the chief magistrate, but the police's contention was that COSATU had not been given permission to hold a meeting after the march.

The order to disperse was relayed over the public address system only after Mr Baraye, South African National Youth Congress President Peter Mokaba, National Union of Metalworkers General Secretary Moses Mayekiso and the National Union of Mineworkers' Paul Nkuna had addressed the crowd. [passage omitted]

Streets were closed to vehicles by traffic policemen for the marchers, led by COSATU leaders, to proceed and marshals ensured that participants stayed off the pavements and away from storefronts.

Once the crowd arrived at Wits, Mr Nkuna told the crowd the march was not only about factory-floor issues, but "also to show our total rejection of the apartheid system. The South African Government will only be made to see sense through pressure," he said.

He acknowledged Mr de Klerk's release of Sisulu and the others but added that not all demands, including the unbanning of the ANC [African National Congress], had been met.

The ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation], would only abandon its armed struggle after the causes which had justified its inception were removed. Negotiation with the government was possible, but not on Mr de Klerk's terms.

Mr Mayekiso assured the crowd the black masses were marching to freedom. "Comrades, we are going to defeat them. We must give them a message that their time is over. We are here, marching to freedom.

"They are talking about negotiation. We say they must scrap apartheid—we are fighting against apartheid and we must get rid of imperialism, colonialism and capitalism," Mr Mayekiso said.

A Mass Democratic Movement spokesman described the march as a success because it had been conducted peacefully.

De Beers Strike Ends 16 Oct; Talks To Resume

*MB1610165989 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1601 GMT 16 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 16 SAPA—De Beers and the National Union of Mineworkers agreed Monday to meet on Wednesday [18 October] in an effort to resolve their wage increase dispute.

The union had also undertaken to suspend from Monday night the strike which started last Thursday [12 October] while negotiations continued, a De Beers spokesman said in a statement.

Commentary: State Firms' Privatization 'Launched'

*MB1610125189 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0511 GMT 16 Oct 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Privatization, one of the big economic success stories of the eighties in Western countries, is now well and truly launched in South Africa, so much so that Iscor's [Iron and Steel Corporation] share issue, the biggest in South African history, is expected to be many times oversubscribed when the offer closes next week.

Other public enterprises, like Eskom [Electricity Supply Commission], the post office, and transport services are well advanced with the fundamental reorganization required to prepare them for privatization. Other services in the government sector are being investigated, and earlier this year it was announced that all catering, cleaning, and horticultural services provided by the state would be privatized over the next 3 years.

This week the process took another step forward with the announcement of increasing privatization in the health services. Hospital beds will in future be made available to private entrepreneurs. Various services and facilities will be contracted out or sold, and the possibility of privatizing 44 hospitals will be investigated during the next few months. The policy, designed to curb further heavy state spending, has been made possible by the strong growth of medical aid schemes in all communities.

Nevertheless, the responsible minister, Mr Sam de Beer, has given an assurance that people who are dependent on the state for basic health services will continue to be provided for.

It is now generally accepted that privatization, in combination with deregulation, is indispensable for improved economic performance in South Africa.

We must open the economy for free enterprise, says Dr Wim de Villiers, the country's new minister of administration and privatization. Dr de Villiers, who has spent much of the eighties doing in-depth studies on privatizing state enterprises, including health services, notes that privatization will lay the basis for a variety of beneficial effects in the economy.

It will broaden the tax base and so, in due course, make a lower tax structure feasible. It will also increase the efficiency of capital investment, an area in which performance in the last 15 years had undergone a serious deterioration, and it should encourage the growth of share ownership in South Africa, the people's capitalism that the Thatcherite revolution has achieved in Britain. The wide public support for privatization in South Africa is no doubt partly due to the astonishing successes that have been recorded in the 50 or more countries that have adopted some form of privatization in the last 5 years. In Britain, which took the lead, one-third of the nationalized work force has been transferred to the private sector through the sale of state-owned companies. One of them, the Jaguar car company, went from a loss to record profits and increased jobs by 3,000 in the process.

Employees who bought out National Freight Corporation increased productivity by 30 percent and saw the value of their shares rise to 40 times the price they had paid.

Privatization, properly handled, has benefited all concerned: governments, the organizations themselves, employees, and taxpayers. It has proved to be a spur to economic growth in a freer economy. Judging by the reaction to the developments like the Iscor share offer, there is considerable optimism that South Africa will receive similar benefits from its privatization program.

14 Oct Press Review on Current Problems, Issues MB1410112589

[Editorial Report]

SATURDAY STAR

'Sanctions Will Hit Us All Equally'—Joe Latakomo, in his page 10 "Write On!" column in Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR in English on 14 October, says, in discussing the threat of anti-South African sanctions, "of course, there are those on the right wing who tell whites that there is no hurry in South Africa, that we will do things at our own pace, when things suit us, not at the command of any outside force." "The point is, though, that all those who argue that blacks will suffer most from sanctions must admit that sanctions will hit us all equally. For the first time, white South Africans are beginning to feel what poverty really means. They are

realising now that we are just another Third World country and our currency is worth nothing against any of the major units of the world. That is the way our country has gone, and whites must accept that it is the Government which has led us all the way down."

THE CITIZEN

Security Forces Need Public's Support—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 14 October in a page 6 editorial declares that in the case of South Africa's riot police taking action against protesters, "there is a racial connotation, with police Riot Squad members being mainly White and demonstrators mainly Black. The result is that South Africa is singled out for condemnation—and the sympathies, as planned by the organisers of the demonstrations, are with the 'victims' of police 'brutality.'" Despite this, "we believe the public should guard against being swept up by anti-police mania." "The wrong acts of the few can never detract from the great sacrifices the security forces make in the course of their work." "The security forces stand as bulwarks" against radical attempts "to overthrow the existing order." "They need the full support of the government and the public in the testing times ahead."

NEW NATION

Prisoner Release Simply 'New Strategy'—Johannesburg NEW NATION in English for 13 October-19 October states in its page 3 editorial that "this week's release of the leaders [Walter Sisulu and other security prisoners] is a resounding victory for the people who have fought so long and tirelessly for them. The releases not only represent the unending crisis for the government but also mark a strategy by the government to turn a potential weakness into a strength." "The Nationalists realise that without the release and other 'gestures', South Africa's economic lifeline to the rest of the world would be threatened and important allies lost. In this respect, the releases do not in themselves represent a fundamental shift on the part of the government. It is simply a new strategy to achieve old objectives."

CAPE TIMES

De Klerk Gives 'Common Sense' Priority—"The best thing about Mr F W de Klerk's reign as State President so far is occasional signs that common sense is being given priority over ideological stubbornness," notes Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 11 October in a page 8 editorial. "That may not seem like much, but after decades of rule by Nationalist governments whose first consideration when faced with problems was not to find a solution but to hold the party line, the new development is a welcome change indeed. The latest example has been the naming of May 1 as Workers Day, putting an overdue end to the tortuous and graceless machinations with which the previous government tried to obscure the fact that it was left with no choice but to give in to demands for this date as an official holiday." "Mr De Klerk has now set that right."

DIE BURGER

Doubts in the Conservative Party—Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans on 10 October notes in a page 6 editorial: "With the doubts expressed at the weekend from within the Conservative Party [CP] about its policy of partition for coloreds, the basis of the CP's existence is addressed." "The alternative is white domination and that, says the CP, is something that it does not stand for. Cogovernment, by coloreds and whites, is the logical alternative—and is the reason why the CP broke away from the National Party."

DP Consensus 'Wishful Thinking'—In another editorial on the same page, DIE BURGER states: "The consensus the Democratic Party [DP] is bragging about following its congress decision to retain the troika is wishful thinking. The troika was formed because of a lack of consensus between the three most important factions that make up the party."

BEELD

Negotiated Future in Sight— "The release of Mr Walter Sisulu and seven other ANC [African National Congress] leaders is an important step towards reform," observes Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 12 October in a page 8 editorial. "The manner in which this was done creates optimism that an end to bitterness and confrontation is in sight and that a negotiated future awaits us." "The decision was made against the background of continued requests over the years." "Probably the most important point is that Mr Sisulu has been released without conditions." "South Africa will enter the future with confidence if the aged Mr Sisulu and his colleagues

enjoy their freedom wisely." However, a "great responsibility rests on their shoulders, as Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in London, not to make success impossible."

VRYE WEEKBLAD

'First Steps' Toward Negotiations?—Johannesburg VRYE WEEKBLAD in Afrikaans on 13 October notes in a page 16 editorial: "Even the most cynical among us are beginning to see a silver lining in the dark cloud. Could it be that the first steps on the road to negotiation are being taken?" "If F.W. de Klerk passes up this opportunity to steer South Africa on the road to democracy and normalization, history will judge him harshly."

DIE REPUBLIKEIN

SWAPO's Nujoma a 'Forgotten Man'—Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans on 10 October writes in a page 4 editorial that "Mr Nujoma pleads for his organization's atrocities to be forgiven and forgotten. We might have acceded if it weren't for the fact that Mr Nujoma's SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] are holding detainees without trial at this very moment. Mr Nujoma is already a forgotten man. His name is no longer on the lips of the nation except when they ask when he will allow the detainees to return. Namibians challenge Mr Nujoma to help them forget that which they cannot." "Mr Nujoma wants his organization's atrocities to be forgiven and forgotten while at this very moment people are waiting for their next-of-kin to return." "The question is simple: Where are these people?" "Must such a man rule our country? The answer is never!" "We forget nothing. We cannot build a future on injustice."

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

17 Oct 1989

